

17 February 1951

MEMORANDUM TO: 25X1A9a, Chief D/S
FROM: 25X1A9a, Acting Chief Trade & Finance Branch
SUBJECT: Comments on the Memorandum of 30 January 1951 to the Division Chiefs, "O/RR Economic Division Functions"

1. Formulation and execution of intelligence research programs would be facilitated and expedited with greater efficiency, economy, and accuracy if all the duties and responsibilities in the fields of Trade and Finance would be concentrated in one branch of one division. As currently constituted, several divisions and several branches are charged with duplicating and/or overlapping responsibilities. These conditions create divided responsibility, divided and unorganized effort in these fields.

2. Coordinated, Trade and Finance Branch would be in a much better and stronger position to provide authoritative basic research and consultant services within the specialized Trade and Finance fields to CIA and non-CIA agencies than is conceivable under present conditions where various divisions and branches are attempting to cover the same field.

3. Furthermore, consolidated, Trade and Finance Branch would eliminate the time-consuming coordination in production, collection, and exploitation of intelligence data, ensure an adequate flow of material in fulfillment of research requirements, and centralize the source of information in one branch of the Agency instead of in half-a-dozen or more branches and/or divisions.

4. Segregation of Trade and Finance intelligence into current and basic is impractical because, unlike political field, current and basic data in these fields can best be interpreted and assessed when the Trade and Finance office functions as one central unit in CIA.